

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 3, 8 and 9. These sheets, which include Figs. 1, 3, 8 and 9, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 3, 8 and 9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are presently active, Claims 10-14 have been previously canceled without prejudice, Claims 10-14 are canceled without prejudice, Claims 41-56 are withdrawn from further consideration as directed to a non-elected invention, Claims 1 and 9 are amended, and Claims 10-20 are added by the present amendment. No new matter is added. Since the amendments are merely formal in nature, they are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

The amendment of Claim 1 finds non-limiting support in Applicant's specification as originally filed, for example from page 11, line 27, to page 12, line 3. Therefore, the amendment (new claims) are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to because of informalities. Figures 1, 3-5, 7-10 and 13-15 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1, 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yanagida et al. (US 5,775,918) in view of Ishii et al. (US 5,598,279) further in view of Fujita et al. (US 4,468,693). Claims 2, 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yanagida et al., Ishii et al. and Fujita et al. further in view of Sugiura et al. (US 6,222,950). Claims 3, 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yanagida et al., Ishii et al. and Fujita et al. further in view of Kojima (US 5,917,955). Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yanagida et al., Ishii et al. and Fujita et al. further in view of Yoh et al. (US 5,740,333).

Regarding the objection to the specification, the specification is amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the specification is overcome.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, on the replacement sheets, Figures 1, 3, 8 and 9 are corrected to address the informalities. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings is overcome.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103, Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding grounds for rejection, because in Applicant's view, independent Claims 1, 4 and 11 patentably distinguish over the applied references as discussed below.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "color identifying means for determining, for each of the digital red image data, the digital green image data, and the digital blue image data, whether there exists black data, **generating density data from the black data** when black data exists, and generating color data from data other than the black data" and "magnification varying means for **varying the density data** and the multinary color data, using a cubic function convolution method."

The outstanding Office Action states that Yanagida et al. discloses color identifying means and magnification varying means as recited in Claim 1 (Office Action at page 7, line 22 through page 8, line 2 and page 8, lines 6-7).

Yanagida et al. shows in Fig. 14 that a color separating circuit 61 separates the input image data DR, DG and DB into multilevel black image data and red image data (Yanagida et al. at col. 14, lines 22-25). However, Yanagida et al. only teaches that the black image data is inputted into an MTF (Modulation Transfer Function) correction circuit 62, and the MTF correction is executed on the black image data. The MTF correction circuit 62 corrects the deterioration of the optical frequency characteristic by using a bi-dimensional spatial filter (Yanagida et al. at col. 14, lines 37-39). The MTF corrected black image data is inputted into a magnification change circuit 64, which changes the magnification of the MTF corrected black image data. Thus, Yanagida et al. does not teach or suggest that generating density data from the black data. Instead, Yanagida et al. only describes executing the MTF

correction on the black data. Further, Yanagida et al. does not teach or suggest varying the density data, using a cubic function convolution method.

Thus, Yanagida et al. fails to teach or suggest at least “color identifying means for determining, for each of the digital red image data, the digital green image data, and the digital blue image data, whether there exists black data, generating density data from the black data when black data exists, and generating color data from data other than the black data” and “magnification varying means for varying the density data and the multinary color data, using a cubic function convolution method,” as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, Ishii et al. and Fujita et al. also fail to teach or suggest the features above.

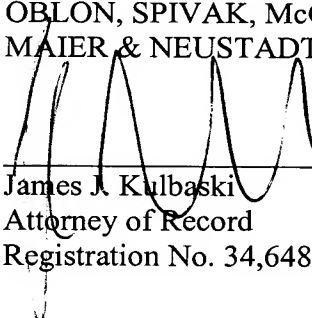
Similar arguments as set forth above also apply to independent Claim 4 and 11.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 4 and 11 patentably distinguish over the applied references. Since Claims 2, 3, 5-10, 12 and 13 are dependent from respective Claims 1, 4 and 13, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Therefore, Claims 1-13 are believed to be allowable.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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